



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,353	05/09/2005	Jong-Soo Woo	Q87237	4817

23373 7590 01/15/2009
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

PALENIK, JEFFREY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1615

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

01/15/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/534,353	Applicant(s) WOO ET AL.	
	Examiner Jeffrey T. Palenik	Art Unit 1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1615

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of Applicants' Amendments and Remarks filed 15 August 2008. The Examiner acknowledges the following:

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 have all been amended. Regarding claims 1, 3, 5 and 6, where support for the amendments was not expressly provided, it was found either within Applicants' disclosure and/or originally filed claims. For example, Applicants' support on the basis of the reference to paragraph [0027] was found in the specification, despite the paragraphs not being numbered.

No claims have been added and no new matter has been added.

Thus, claims 1-10 still represent all claims currently under consideration.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

No new Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) have been submitted for consideration.

WITHDRAWN OBJECTIONS/REJECTIONS

Objection to the Specification

Applicants' amendments to both the Abstract of the Invention renders moot their objection. Thus, said objections have been **withdrawn**.

Objection to the Claims

Applicants' remarks regarding claim 4 have been fully considered and are persuasive thereby rendering moot the objection. Thus, said objections have been **withdrawn**.

Art Unit: 1615

Rejection under 35 USC 112

Applicants' amendment removing the trademark, "EUDRAGIT[®]" from claim 3, renders moot the rejection, under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Thus, said rejection has been **withdrawn**.

Applicants' amendments clarifying the method step of claim 5 and removing the term "capable" from claim 6 render moot the rejections to claims 5 and 6, under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Thus, said rejections have been **withdrawn**.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

Applicants' amendments and remarks to the instant claims, have been fully considered and are persuasive, thereby rendering moot the rejection to claims 1-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nair et al. (EP 0 521 675) in view of Patel et al. (USPN 6,284,363). Thus, said rejection has been **withdrawn**.

NEW REJECTIONS

In light of Applicants' remarks and amendments, the following rejections have been newly added:

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

Art Unit: 1615

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patel et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0064097) in combination with Kawamura et al. (US Pre-Grant Publication 2004/0219208).

The instant claims remain drawn to a method for preparing a paclitaxel solid dispersion by a supercritical fluid process as discussed in the Office Action, mailed 21 March 2008. The process comprises dissolving a mixture of paclitaxel and additive in a mixed organic solvent. The solvent is next mixed via spraying with a supercritical fluid; the contact of the two solutions resulting in the formation of paclitaxel/additive particles. Any organic solvent remaining on the particles is washed away using additional supercritical fluid. Lastly, the remaining particles are collected. The instantly amended claim 5 is interpreted by the Examiner as reciting a compositional limitation to claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic polymer (e.g. additive) is present in the solution mixture ranging from 1-75% (w/w) prior to the addition of the supercritical fluid.

Patel et al. teach methods for preparing multiparticulate compositions using processes which comprise applying an encapsulation coat onto a substrate (e.g. spray coating and nanoencapsulation) as well as collection of the ensuing particles ¶[0223]. Preparation of the encapsulation coating solution is taught as solubilizing or suspending a composition in a mixture comprising an organic solvent and a supercritical fluid, and which can further comprise additives. Paragraph [0039] teaches paclitaxel as one of the most preferred hydrophobic active

Art Unit: 1615

ingredients used in the encapsulation coating composition. Paragraph [0257] specifically teaches that multiple organic solvents may be combined as the organic solvent of the coating solutions. Additives are, again, taught as being part of the coating solution composition. Removal of the dispersing medium (e.g. the organic solvent of the coating solution) is taught as occurring at the end of the coating process and in the form of drying process (e.g. heating, vacuuming, etc.). Recovery of the resulting particles may be accomplished by forming pellets, granules, or spheres, for example ¶[0228].

Patel further teaches additives which include hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC), hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC), and polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP) ¶[0166]. PVP, in particular, is taught as both a binder ¶[0166] and a disintegrant ¶[0174]. Where the coating composition is applied to the particles as a delayed release enteric coating, acrylic polymer additives such as methacrylic acid copolymers as well as other polymers of the Eudragit series (e.g. E, L, S, RL, and RS) are preferably used ¶[0190], [0191] and [0202]. The methods discussed at ¶[0224] employ organic solvents which are further defined at ¶[0257] as mixtures of different solvents such as methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, dichloromethane, and ethyl acetate.

Patel does not expressly teach removal (e.g. displacement) of the mixed organic solvent portion of the dispersing medium by washing the coated particles with additional supercritical fluid, but does additionally teach that modifications to the coating process, such as the drying processes, are well known in the art ¶[0226]. Patel also does not expressly teach Applicants' instantly claimed polymer/active weight ratio, percent range of the hydrophilic polymer or the weight ratio of the two organic solvents mixed.

Art Unit: 1615

Kawamura et al. teach a process for preparing a sustained-release preparation comprising injectable microcapsules or microspheres ¶¶[0225] and [0226] which comprises an AII antagonist and an anticancer drug (Abstract; claim 1). Paclitaxel is specifically taught as a plant-derived anticancer agent ¶[0154] which may be employed in the formulation. One such process for preparing said particles or spheres is described in ¶[0259] wherein a compound comprising an AII antagonist and optionally water are added to a solution of additive (e.g. biodegradable polymer) in an organic solvent. Paragraph [0263] teaches different ranges of ratios of the organic solvents (i.e. ratio of dichloromethane to ethanol or methanol). Biodegradable polymers such as PVP are taught as emulsifier additives which may be present at preferable concentration ranging from about 0.01-10% by weight ¶¶[0262] and [0265]. Said solution is then finely dispersible by homogenization or by ultrasound over said particles. The organic solvent used is expressly taught as comprising a mixture of different organic-based solvents ¶[0260] as well as an additive ¶[0261] and/or an emulsifier ¶[0265]. Paragraph [0276] teaches methods for removing water and organic solvents from the coated particles which include evaporation and/or vacuuming. A more specific method for removal of water and organic solvent is expressly taught as being performed using a supercritical fluid in a high pressure gas state ¶[0283]. Collection of the resulting microcapsule particles by centrifugation or filtration is taught in ¶[0277].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare a nano-scale paclitaxel solid dispersion (e.g. suspension) by contacting a paclitaxel/additive/mixed alcohol solvent solution with a supercritical fluid, displacing said

Art Unit: 1615

alcohol solvent with supercritical fluid and recover the resulting particles, as taught and suggested by the combined teachings of Patel and Kawamura.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because Patel provides teachings for every aspect of the instantly claimed method except where the organic solvent is removed using supercritical fluid. Patel does teach that at the end of the particle coating process, the residual dispersing medium, which includes the mixed organic solvent, can be further removed to a desirable level utilizing appropriate drying processes such as vacuum evaporation, freeze drying and heating ¶[0224]. The ordinarily skilled artisan, in view of this teaching and ¶[0226], would have been highly motivated to substitute a gas-propelled process for a suction-based process of evaporating organic solvents, such as the solvent removal method taught by ¶[0283] of Kawamura, particularly since said removal method explicitly teaches using a supercritical fluid in a high pressure gas-state to remove organic solvents (i.e. mixed ethanol and methanol). Furthermore, while Patel does not expressly teach the claimed order of the addition of components of the instantly claimed method, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that there is no patentable distinction between Applicants' method and the methods taught in the prior art. The selection of any order of performing process steps is *prima facie* obvious in the absence of new or unexpected results. *In re Burhans*, 154 F.2d 690, 69 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1946) Selection of any order of mixing ingredients is also held to be *prima facie* obvious. *In re Gibson*, 39 F.2d 975, 5 USPQ 230 (CCPA 1930) (see MPEP 2144.04 (IV)(C.))

Neither of the references explicitly teach polymer/active weight ratio, percent range of

Art Unit: 1615

the hydrophilic polymer or the weight ratio of the two organic solvents mixed, as claimed by Applicants. The amounts and ratios of specific ingredients in a composition are clearly a result effective parameter that a person of ordinary skill in the art would routinely optimize as is format of oral dosage (i.e. tablet versus capsule). Optimization of parameters, such as the size of granulated particles, is a routine practice that would be obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to employ and reasonably would expect success. It would have been customary for an artisan of ordinary skill to determine the optimal amounts and ratios of each ingredient to add in order to best achieve the desired method as cited in the instant claims. Thus, absent some demonstration of unexpected results from the claimed parameters, this optimization of ingredient amounts would have been obvious at the time of Applicant's invention.

Given the mixture process steps taught by Patel as well as the modified, supercritical fluid based, organic solvent evaporation step suggested by Patel and taught by Kawamura, and since both inventions are directed towards methods for solubilizing insoluble drugs such as paclitaxel in small scale, particulate-based drug delivery compositions, it follows that the combined teachings would have afforded the ordinarily skilled artisan a reasonably high expectation of success for producing the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as a whole was *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the combined references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

Art Unit: 1615

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined teachings of Patel and Kawamura as set forth above with respect to claim 1 in combination with Nielsen et al. (USPN 5,716,558).

Neither Patel nor Kawamura teach the temperature or pressure application parameters for the supercritical fluid as set forth by Applicants in claim 10.

Nielsen teaches methods for spraying liquid compositions by using compressed fluids such as carbon dioxide, to form solid particulates and coating powders which may be produced with narrow particle size distributions (Abstract). Nielsen further teaches that compressed carbon dioxide fluid may be sprayed at a temperature of 60°C and a pressure of 1600 pounds/sq. inch (1 bar/14.5 psi; <http://onlineconversion.com/pressure.htm>) or about 110.3 bar (col. 13, lines 19-26).

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have sprayed a supercritical fluid (e.g. carbon dioxide) using Applicants' instantly claimed physical parameters in view of Nielsen's teaching that application of a supercritical fluid to a liquid water-borne polymeric composition comprising a mixed organic solvent produced a dry, collectable powder (Example 9).

All claims under consideration remain rejected; no claims are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Due to the new grounds of rejection, this action is deemed **non-final**.

Art Unit: 1615

CORRESPONDENCE

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey T. Palenik whose telephone number is (571) 270-1966. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 5:00 pm; M-F (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on (571) 272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeffrey T. Palenik/
Examiner, Art Unit 1615

/MP WOODWARD/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1615